**Rod Beckstrom**

**CEO and President**

**ICANN**

**ISPCP response on security and stability**

Dear Rod

Since receiving your letter seeking expert advice on monitoring policies and other activities that ICANN could explore in order to address current concerns over the security and stability of the Internet, considerable discussion has taken place within the ISPCP. Similar to you, all of our members view these issues with the utmost importance and are already actively engaged in a number of activities aimed at addressing them.

The specific reference made in your letter to the route hijacking in China is just one example of how the Internet can be compromised. This example involved the misrouting of Internet traffic due to incorrect prefix address information. The ISPCP is already aware the RIRs are actively working to improve routing security through the use of certificates that will help mitigate such problems and some of our members are engaged in that effort.

As ISPs we are acutely aware that BGP is critical to Internet connectivity, stability, security, reliability, and efficiency. This has to be the case since BGP has been substantially extended and has now evolved into a general purpose protocol for a variety of IP and non-IP routing and signaling applications. However BGP vulnerabilities can still be exploited accidently or maliciously by outsiders or by BGP peers themselves**.** That said, there are already a range of operational remedies that ISPs rigorously deploy in order to provide various safeguards. In addition the industry is already working on additional approaches, through organizations such as the IETF that will further enhance BGP security.

It is important that ICANN plays its part in facing up to the challenges of today and in the future as the Internet continues to grow and expand in a manner that brings so much benefit to the world’s business and social communities. The ISPCP Constituency will continue to work within ICANN to support that goal, but in addition our members will also continue to engage with other parts of the community to ensure the Internet provides the level of security and stability that is so vital to its health.

The ISPCP welcomes the opportunity to participate in the discussions on some of the current initiatives launched by ICANN such as the creation of DNS-CERT and the Strategic Initiatives for Improved DNS Security, Stability and Resilience, recognizing that we all have our part to play.

As part of the Internet’s eco-system ICANN has to fit within the greater framework, taking the initiative in areas that fall within its role as the body responsible for coordinating the Internet’s unique set of identifiers, whilst working collaboratively with other bodies

As the Internet continues to grow, without doubt new challenges will have to be faced and ICANN and all of its stakeholders will have their part to play. The strength of the Internet model is that all those involved have traditionally played their part, fully recognizing both their responsibilities and the boundaries. As an organization that is made up of a wide range of stakeholders, ICANN has already shown its ability to operate within that framework, carefully channeling its widespread expertise through the creation of its Constituencies and various Advisory Committees such as the Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC) and the Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC). It is through those bodies that ICANN gains its strength and it is the view of the ISPCP that any additional requirements for the organization will quickly emerge from the on-going discussions. Whilst fully recognizing the challenges we have to face, at this point in time the ISPCP does see the need to flag any specific concerns outside of those debates.

Finally may I add that all of our members are fully supportive of the ICANN model and remain totally committed to ensuring its future success.